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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food And Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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To whom it may concern:

I write you today concerning Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food."

I strongly oppose the use of any form of radiation in food processing. Period.

However, if the FDA decides to allow such a terrible treatment, all items should be clearly marked.

I strongly hold that if foods are processed with radiation of any form, all those food products, whether intended for humans or animals, should be clearly and unambiguously marked as being treated with radiation. I want a large symbol used, such as the radura symbol, to accompany any text warning consumers of the radiation processing methods used.

The words "radiation treated," or "irradiated," or "radiation pasteurization" should be printed on all packaging in at least 14 point type in a prominent and visible place.

Not having these warnings and symbols is to remove our freedom of choice in the foods we consume. There is a growing body of evidence which indicates food quality loss in irradiated foods. There may be other, harder to detect problems which will only show up in the very long term, when it is too late.

I strongly oppose using vague terms like "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization." These are wildly misleading to the point of hiding what the process actually does.

Radiation is a proven health hazard. There will be dangers to the population at large due to the transport of radioactive materials. There will be dangers to the workers in the food processing plants. There are clear signs irradiated foods are damaged. This ultimately will harm consumers. Moreover, radiation will increase processing costs of food. Which, again, hurts the consumer.

From what I can determine from the press, the proponents of this process are mostly in the nuclear energy industry, an industry which is infamous for its disregard for public safety and misleading information. Simply look at the nuclear power plant situation in Illinois for multiple examples of this industry's criminal behavior.

Sincerely,

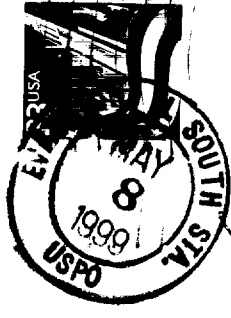


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